Agenda

The new EU Transport Policy: Integration, Infrastructure, Innovation and a new Transport Vision

A CEPS Roundtable Discussion focusing on surface transport

Date: 14 September 2010

Venue: CEPS, Conference Room
Place du Congrès 1 - 1000 Brussels; Tel. +32 2 229 3911

The transport sector already represents almost a quarter of EU GHG emissions and its emissions continue to increase faster than in any other sector. This calls for a new approach to EU transport addressing rising GHG emissions but integrated with security of energy supply issues, improving the sector’s service quality and meeting the innovation challenge. This will require a new strategic direction ensuring the development and financing of (fundamental) infrastructure changes as well as a shared understanding of the kind of products and services the European transport system will need to offer to guarantee sustainable and demand-responsive services. This CEPS Roundtable Discussion will kick off a series of meetings including a new CEPS Task Force on EU transport policy. The objective is to publish a short strategy paper (in early autumn) addressing the fundamental questions ahead of the publication of the European Commission’s Transport White Paper. An initial draft version will be presented at the workshop.
09:00 Registration and coffee

09:30 Welcome and introduction by the chair of the meeting, Christian Egenhofer of the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)


Session I: Decarbonising surface transport: Enabling mobility without accelerating climate change

The aim of this session is to briefly assess the challenges and then evaluate the value of different fundamental policies that could make Europe’s transport system fit for the future. Particular focus will be on the environment, security of energy supply, infrastructure and innovation and how such a policy fares in promoting a demand responsive transport sector.

10:00 Opening statement by Philip Owen of DG CLIMA, European Commission

10:10 Comments by Matthieu Wemaere of the Institut du développement durable et des relations internationals (IDDRI)

10:20 Discussion

Possible discussion points:

1) Modular vs. inter-modal approaches and how to integrate them into a consistent strategy
2) Do we need more than innovation to achieve CO₂ cuts in surface transport? If so what is the balance between regulation, taxation and innovation support and how can it be achieved?
3) What would the effect of a hard GHG emissions target in transport? Should such a target be mode-specific or sector wide?
4) What is really the scope for changing demand patterns, in passenger and in freight?
5) The deployment of electric light-duty vehicles: how much, by when?
6) The contribution of standard and high-speed passenger rail and how inter-modality within and between urban areas

11:20 Coffee break
Session II: Designing and Financing Decarbonisation of the Transport Sector

The aim of this session is to link the fundamental choices of European transport policy to design options with a special emphasis on infrastructure finance. While a good regulatory framework and the internalisation of external costs will push the efficiency of the existing transport system, it will hardly promote the technological step changes that are required, especially but not only with regards to infrastructure planning, development and finance. In order to ensure that access to infrastructure and customer choice are ensured, it might be useful to develop ex ante indicators against which progress of the transport transformation can be measured.

11:45 Introductory statement by the chair of the meeting, Christian Egenhofer of CEPS

11:50 Presentation by Sandro Santamato of DG MOVE, European Commission

12:00 Comments by Peder Jensen of the European Environmental Agency (EEA)

12:10 Discussion

Possible discussion points:

1) Financing infrastructure and public services
2) Driving decarbonisation (taxes, charges or emissions trading?), and the role of infrastructure charging
3) Trans-European networks and the role of the EU
4) What role for an internal EU market?
5) Criteria for evaluating transport policy

13:10 Lunch

14:00 End of event